

1875
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RESOLUTIONS

To be presented at the Meeting of the Manufacturers of Ontario, in the St Lawrence Hall, Toronto, on FRIDAY, NOV, 26th, 1875:

PREAMBLE.

Whereas in the Dominion of Canada nearly all manufacturing interests are at present in a state of great depression, beyond any former experience since this was known as a manufacturing country, much distress and suffering from want of employment prevailing in consequence, while the tide of emigration has been turned, and while over importation of foreign goods has of late made a very heavy drain upon our resources;

And whereas, while it is true that commercial depression exists in Great Britain and the United States, as well as in Canada, the case is at the present time a far worse here than in either of the former two countries, Great Britain having commercial connections of vast extent, reaching to the markets of all the world, and the United States having a system of high protection which secures the home market for home producers, while Canada, lacking both the foreign export connections of Great Britain, the secure home market of the United States, is between two tides and suffers accordingly;

And whereas the case of Canada is one with but a parallel in the world, being an example of comparative Free Trade on one side of a frontier thousand of miles in extent, with very high Protection on the other, a condition of things most unfair to the people of the Dominion;

And whereas it is understood that the Imperial Government concedes to us the liberty of framing our commercial policy to suit the peculiar circumstances of the Dominion;

And whereas, while the enormous disadvantage at which we, with almost Free Trade, have been placed through the adoption of an unwise and injurious system of high protection by our enterprising neighbours, which, for many years past, has been by the vast industrial disturbance created by the late civil war and enduring long after its close—is now, through the return of normal conditions in the United States, shewing very conspicuously its natural effects;

And whereas, the principle of incidental protection to home manufactures is a sound one, being in its operation calculated to meet revenue requirements, while stimulating industry generally, and furnishing diversity of employment to the people, and is especially adapted to the circumstances of a new country like Canada;

Be it therefore resolved: That in view of the fact that no duties are imposed on American products of the soil entering this country, while all Canadian products are heavily taxed when sent to the market of the United States, we do most emphatically protest against the interests of our farmers, millers, and other producers being sacrificed in this way; and that, while desirous of seeing a fair reciprocity of trade between the two countries, the Dominion cannot afford to let products enter the market unasked as long as a heavy toll of custom duties is levied on all our products seeking a market in the United States.

Further, whereas for many years past it has been the settled policy of the Government of Canada to adjust our Customs tariff with reference to the necessity of collecting a sufficient revenue to meet the obligations of the country;

It is the opinion of this meeting, having due regard to the fluctuations in values in the various countries whence we draw our importation;

That upon the classes of articles which are now manufactured in the Dominion, such revenue will be best secured by advancing thereon an additional rate of 2½ per cent. upon the rates now levied on all such classes as are imported from Great Britain or Ireland, and in respect of the same classes imported from all foreign countries, no less rate of duty shall be levied than is imposed by the said foreign countries respectively against like classes of articles im-

ported into such foreign countries, if of the manufacture or production of this Dominion.

Resolved, That the Dominion Government be petitioned to enforce the strictest possible administration of the revenue laws, adopting the most stringent regulations, abolishing altogether, or allowing in only few and very clear cases, the practice of suffering entries to be amended, which encourages the making of entries in advance. The revenue will, but little rise, in case of failure, in reducing materially the number of small ports of entry, and making the law itself more precise, if necessary, in order that fraud and undervaluation at the custom houses, now believed to be carried on to a large extent, may be effectually stopped—as a measure of just dealing to the honest importer as well as to the home manufacturer.

Whereas, the labours of the Geological Survey have clearly demonstrated that the Dominion abounds in vast deposits of economic minerals of unapproachable value to a young country, and these labours are being daily supplemented by private enterprise and exertions, none particularly in the iron minerals.

And whereas, the history of other countries older than our own has shown that the development of such resources has been a great motor in the progress and advancement of such countries, and has conduced more to the material prosperity of a country than almost any other branch of industry;

And whereas, it appears, *exempli gratia* that Sweden and Norway, not to mention England, have attained their present position more by the proper development and encouragement of the iron industry than from any other cause;

And whereas, the heretofore existing criminal neglect on the part of our community, of the proper development of its mineral resources, has been so great, especially before our eyes by the exportation of vast quantities of raw mineral products to manufacturers in the United States, and we are confronted with the spectacle of these same deposits being returned to our midst in a manufactured form and sold to our people, while thousands whose necessities might be met at the present juncture by the assistance and encouragement of such manufacturers are still suffering from the apathy that exists in this respect;

And whereas, in consequence of the promises and in view of the boundless and startling effect of a policy of protection to manufacturers exhibited across our borders in the building up of the United States, and in a similar manner in the employment of surplus labour, retention of capital within its borders, and the reflex action of its products on ours;

Resolved, therefore, That for the carrying out of the spirit of the preamble and one-musing the introduction of capital into the Dominion for the development of the iron trade and utilizing our iron ore, this meeting recommends a specific import duty of two dollars per ton on pig iron, together with a bonus from the Government of two dollars per ton on all iron produced in Canada, for a period of five years from 1st July, 1876.

Resolved, That the Manufacturers' Association of Ontario be affiliated with and represented in the Dominion Board of Trade;

That this meeting recommends the establishment by the Government of a Dominion Bureau of Manufactures and Commerce, with the view of securing, amongst other things, full and reliable statistics relating to the iron trade;

That this meeting recommends the formation of local associations of manufacturers in the various Electoral Divisions;

That this meeting learns with much satisfaction that the Dominion Government is about to establish direct communication with the West Indies and South America;

That this meeting desires to draw the attention of the manufacturers of the Dominion to the new facilities about to be afforded for iron trade with the West Indies and South America; also, to the importance of a full representation of Canadian products and manufacturers at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.